

GLIDING NEW ZEALAND NEWS

This column is intended to give readers an ongoing insight into the activities of the GNZ Executive and its Committees. Rather than a detailed report on matters currently under consideration, here are some recent items of significance.

Operations – Brian Chesterman ran a very successful **Instructor training course** at Taupo in late September, ably assisted by Tom Anderson, John Bayliss, Ross Biggar, Steve Care, Doug Hamilton, and George Rogers. The Executive wishes to thank these stalwarts sincerely for their contributions to the course.

Further work is being done to model suitable club constitutional provisions that will enable **trial flights** to continue unhindered in the event that the CAA proceeds with its Adventure Aviation rule Part 115.

CAA recently published an NPRM on a proposed **Recreational Pilot Licence**, to all intents and purposes the same as a PPL but requiring only a Land Transport NZ medical certificate. So far, so good but a raft of conditions was proposed, including one passenger only and no glider towing on an RPL. GNZ argued that the consequences of tow-pilot medical incapacitation were likely to be less than for an RPL flight with a passenger. CAA has unfortunately not accepted this argument. You can see CAA's rather misguided response on their web site – GNZ will fight on with this one!

Recent suggestions that the **requirements for QGP** are more advanced than necessary for the privileges conferred has given rise to the idea of splitting the qualification into two – with the QGP to be awarded at the B Certificate level and a new Qualified Soaring Pilot (QSP) certificate to be awarded on completion of the full syllabus. The Executive will be interested to hear your views on this idea.

With regret, Ron Raymond has resigned as **Central Region ROO**. On your behalf, the Executive thanks Ron for his efforts and wishes him well. We are now on the lookout for a new Central Region ROO – ideas or volunteers anyone?

Airworthiness – Following the resignation of Ian Haigh as **National Airworthiness Officer**, Roger Harris has stepped into the breach once more on the understanding that we look to grooming a replacement within the two or three years.

Roger ran a five-day **glider maintenance engineering course** at Omarama in October, attended by six motivated and experienced glider pilots who easily earned their Class 2 approvals. The Executive wishes to thank Roger for this initiative, and also Glide Omarama for the use of its classroom facilities.

Changes to CAA general aircraft maintenance rules have necessitated updates to our **DI Book/Tech Log**, and release-to-service documentation (**Tech 19a and Tech 22**). The opportunity was taken to generally improve these documents, bringing them more into line with a new “house style” applying to GNZ forms.

CAA has indicated that when a **FLARM** device is installed, the documentation must include an amendment to the CAA form 2129 in the front of the glider Flight Manual. CAA is in the process of amending their AC 43-14 to provide guidance to glider engineers in this respect.

Inappropriate and incorrect advice regarding **Airworthiness Directives (ADs)** was given in the Oct/Nov “Roakes Ramblings”. It therefore needs to be made clear that the FAA ADs have no legal relevance to New Zealand registered gliders. Only the CAA NZ ADs matter if

your glider is NZ registered, and these are available free on the CAA web site, which also provides a free email alerting service.

Racing – Organisation of the **FAI World GP Gliding Championship** (GP07 for short) is well advanced. The FAI has contracted GNZ to organise this Category 1 event, while the media aspects are contracted to Air Sports Ltd. Two pilots have withdrawn, leaving a field of 18 from 11 countries, racing with 15m class gliders. Pilots will start arriving at Omarama from 5 December to practice for the real racing that starts on 19 December and finishes Christmas Eve. After Christmas they will go on to fly in the multi-sport event, “Air Sports Live”, at Wanaka, 27-28 December, which is hosted by the Royal NZ Aero Club.

The Sailplane Racing Committee has announced that New Zealand’s representative to compete with Australia for the **Tasman Trophy** is Trevor Atkins. The contest will be flown in PW5s during the NZ National Championships at Matamata next February.

Airspace – Grae Harrison reports that the Airspace Committee has been very active in recent months, with much effort going in to securing glider pilot access to airspace in the **Cromwell Valley** from Tarras to the Nevis. New procedures in this area will be trialled in the forthcoming contest season.

Another problem area is the **Waikato**, where your committee is battling a somewhat arbitrary proposal to lower controlled airspace over a wide area that would seriously affect gliding operations out of Matamata and Drury.

It has become apparent that there is no **coherent high level policy on airspace access** that guides Airways and the CAA in their decisions, so that commercial imperatives tend to take precedence by default – the Executive and Airspace Committee are looking for ways to ensure the rights of recreational users are not forgotten by the policy makers.

Promotion – Steve Tollestrup has had a busy couple of months in taking up every available opportunity to promote gliding in the print and TV media, including publicity of **Hawkes Bay’s and Piako’s 50th anniversary celebrations**, and **Steve Fossett’s gliding connections** when he was unfortunately the focus of enormous attention recently.

With the assistance of Trevor Atkins and Roy Edwards, Steve has developed a detailed **promotional plan and budget**, which was endorsed by the Executive at its October meeting.

Website – As a consequence of the change of arrangements for GNZ’s “official journal”, the Executive has reviewed the policy regarding **classified advertisements on the web site** and has decided that, regardless of the value of the goods, all classifieds will be free to members of GNZ affiliated organisations. Trevor Atkins will be developing a database system to handle the classifieds. Links to “commercial” sites will also remain free.

Admin stuff – a new specification for the **central registry database** is under development, with a view to enabling better utilisation and accessibility online.

A broad **review of the GNZ constitution** has been quietly under way for more than a year, and this is now expected to be completed in time for consideration at the 2008 AGM.

GNZ recently reported to SPARC against the agreed **key performance indicators**. Half of the 2006-2007 targets were exceeded (members recruited, increase in youth members, women participating, web site visits) and half were not achieved (percentage of trial flights, average participation time in the sport, 0800 number calls, increase in number of instructors). Negotiations are currently under way with SPARC for new indicators and targets for 2007-2008.

Max Stevens GNZ Executive Officer